



**SPECIAL GIFT** — A marble bench, a memorial to Carl Vogt, former social studies teacher at Dansville Junior High School, was presented to the school last week. Funds were raised through projects sponsored by the Student Government. Pictured with Lois Vogt, widow of Mr. Vogt, are (from left) former student officers, Christopher Halbert, Amy Ingalls and Patrick Harris. Mr. Vogt, a Dansville native, graduate of the Senior High School, joined the faculty in 1963, teaching until his death in May.

## Sparta Perspective

By RUTH SHAFFER  
Phone 335-8933

A lovely January day—the sun shines bright on the snow-covered hills, the temperature has finally climbed out of the deep freeze to a comparatively comfortable 28 degrees and there is a nice big pot of hearty vegetable beef soup simmering on the stove. I hope it tastes as good as it smells!

It's a perfect day to get out of doors. The air feels almost balmy compared to last week's arctic chill. A good day, I think, to renew the straw in Duketheduck's coop. He has already come outside, too, and waddles about his small yard squawking loudly for some attention, please. I guess he gets pretty lonely out there all alone in winter. Obviously he does not count the very brief visit I make each day to bring him food and water as any kind of real attention.

I open the gate and leave it open. Maybe he will decide to take a stroll while I clean out his house. Nope, I guess not. He prefers to stay underfoot, "talking" to me as I try to get on with the job. Maybe he thinks he's helping. If that's the case I could tell him how far off the mark he is. But I won't. No sense in hurting the old boy's feelings. And, after all, he really does rate some attention.

I was reading somewhere—maybe in the book "Peg Leg Pete," the story of a one-legged wild duck by Mel Ellis—that some wild things, ducks for one, will consider whatever or whoever they first see when they hatch as their parent. Maybe that's the case with the Duke and me. I was there when he hatched, along with two or three of his newly-hatched siblings. I don't recall that any of them considered me a relative but, Duketheduck sure does.

Actually, he's a good fellow, in spite of his often seemingly anti-social behavior. In fact, he is quite a cuddly old bird, providing you get hold of him just right (meaning so he can't bite!) He even seems to enjoy the close contact so from time to time I pick him up and carry him about under my arm. He never struggles to be put down but just contentedly snuggles closer.

Indoors again, it's Booley's turn for some attention. Booley is our resident guinea pig and a cheerful little guy. I see he has discovered the newspapers placed in the bottom of his cage in spite of a heavy layer of pine shavings. In fact, he has managed to tug and pull enough up to make himself a cozy little tent. In the process of course, he has also managed to fling out a good share of the shavings all over my freshly

vacuumed floor. That figures. Keeping all these pets about isn't really a lot different from having small kids around. True, you don't have to clothe the pets or send them to school but when it comes to the time and effort involved, well, it takes a fair share. We can't even get away from those late-night feedings. Owliver definitely is a late night bird and every now and then he squawks loudly outside the bedroom window as late as midnight or 1 a.m. Do I get up to feed him? Believe it or not, I do. And at least for the duration of cold weather I will continue to. Come spring, he can just come around earlier or catch his own supper. And that's the truth!

The largest area of Indian tribal-owned land is in New Mexico, where 3,328,270 acres are distributed among 24 reservations.

## West Sparta News

MRS. MILDRED PIKE

"Thank You" to the ladies in West Sparta for donations of baked goods and those who gave money for the Fire Co. recent bake sale. The lady who won the gingerbread house was Ruth Jones.

Our Fire Company is sure a working force. The new project is a Sweetheart Dinner Dance to be held Feb. 13 at the Fire Hall. Advance tickets will be sold only. Contact Kathy Moffit, 335-8727, Pat Levey, 335-5384 or Coleen Fronk, 335-8671. No tickets will be sold at the door. The band is "Ken Hardley Play Boys". Let's go!

### Volunteers are Listed For Hospital Gift Shop

Volunteers who will staff the Spice Box Gift Shop in Noyes Memorial Hospital during the next week are:

Friday—B. Thompson and G. Kuhn, afternoon; D. Buell, evening.

Saturday—F. Metzger.

Sunday—L. Engert.

Monday—L. Higgins, afternoon;

T. Bolla, evening.

Tuesday—L. Malandra, afternoon; L. Haines, evening.

Wednesday—M. Kingham, afternoon; B. Sullivan, evening.

Thursday—F. Penta, afternoon; S. McDaniel, evening.

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## Show Town Financial Picture

The Town of North Dansville closed its books for 1987 with a cash balance of \$161,081, according to the annual report of Supervisor Robert Hart.

He noted in his summary of receipts, payments and balances that the town started the year with a total balance of \$114,918, a difference of \$47,163 by Dec. 31.

The breakdown shows the general fund, town-wide, started 1987 with \$34,058. Cash receipts for the period were \$192,138 with disbursements of \$175,467 leaving a balance of \$50,729.

The general fund, part-town, opened with \$16,410 with cash receipts of \$4,139 and disbursements of \$4,390 for a total balance of \$16,159, down \$251 at the year's close.

Hart noted that under federal revenue sharing, the town started with a balance of \$35,995. Cash receipts for the year totaled \$489 while disbursements from the account amounted to \$27,679 for a year end figure of \$8,805.

Noting that Highway Superintendent Richard Fournier is doing a "good job" keeping the highway department's equipment and responsibilities in good repair, Hart said the financial report for that portion of the government opened with \$26,619 on hand. Cash receipts amounted to \$142,699 while expenditures totaled only \$122,277 leaving a figure of \$47,041 at the year's close, an increase of \$20,422 over that at the start of the year.

The fire district started 1987 with no balance. Receipts of \$2,000 and expenditures for the same amount offset each other.

On Jan. 1, 1987, a balance of \$1,836 remained in the airport improvement funds. Receipts for that account amounted to \$187,683 and expenditures were \$151,172, leaving a total of \$38,347 at the end of the year.

### Dansville School Menus are Planned

Monday—No School; Martin Luther King Day.

Tuesday—Lemonade, bologna and cheese hoagie, lettuce-tomato-onion, potato chips, chocolate cake, milk.

Wednesday—Pizza with sausage and cheese, tossed salad, apple, cookie, milk.

Thursday—Tomato soup with crackers, toasted cheese sandwich, "cabbage" salad, fruit mix, milk.

The United Methodist Women will have their regular meeting Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. in the home of Marinda Coombes.

Wasps, bees, hornets and other winged insects cause more fatalities in the United States than any wild creatures, including rattlesnakes.

**Winter Clearance Sale Going On Now at Fashions Plus**  
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